

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-01 PA-01 /004 W

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O R 031610Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 994

UNCLAS ACCRA 0879

FOR IBS, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. TWENTY-NINE GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING COUNTRIES FROM BOTH EAST AND WEST AFRICA, AND 300 GHANAIAI COMPANIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE 15-DAY THIRD GHANA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR WHOSE THEME IS "FOOD FOR THE MILLIONS".

2. PERFORMING THE OPENING CEREMONY IN ACCRA ON SUNENY, FEBRUARY 1ST, THE GHANAIAI HEAD OF STATE, COL. I.K. ACHEAMPONG EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THE FAIR WOULD GENERATE HEALTHY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GHANA AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD. HE NOTED ESPECIALLY THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE FAIR PROVIDES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE.

3. THE AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE EHTIOPIA, NIGERIA, THE IVORY COAST, TOGO AND THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN.

4. THE NON-AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE CHINA, BOTH GERMANIES, TNE NETHERLANDS, PAKISTAN, BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

5. THE UNITED STATES IS REPRESENTED BY 17 COMPAINES DISPLAY-
ING A VARIETY OF GOODS FROM AUTOMOTIVE AND INDUSTRIAL LUBRI-
CANTS THROUGH PHARMACEUTICALS TO PRIMARY ALUMINUM PRODUCTS.

6. THE SECOND DAY OF THE FAIR WAS USA DAY. AS PART OF THE
EVENTS TO MARK THE OCCASION, A ROCK AND SOUL GROUP WAS FLOWN
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IN FROMTHE UNITED STATES TO GIVE AN HOUR-LONG, SWEAT-

DRENCHED FREE CONCERT AT THE FAIR. THE GROUP, KNOWN AS BUNNY SIGLER WITH INSTANT FUNK, QUICKLY SUCCEEDED IN GIVING THE ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE INSTANT FUN AND APPEAL. TAKING OFF HIS FLOWING PURPLE ROBE THAT MADE HIM LOOK MORE LIKE A ROMAN CONSUL THAN A SONG-WRITER AND PERFORMER, BUDDY SIGLER SANG HIMSELF A LOST VOICE. THE AUDIENCE RESPONDED BY CLAPPING, STAMPING AND CHEERING WILDLY. THE BAND LATER PLAYED AT A SPECIAL RECEPTION HOSTED BY U.S. AMBASSADOR SHIRLEY TEMPLE BLACK.

7. AT THAT RECEPTION AT WHICH THE GHANAIAN AND U.S. FLAGS WERE RAISED, THE GHANAIAN COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE MR. ERNEST AKO, DESCRIBED THE UNITED STATES AS ONE OF THE LEADING TRADING PARTNERS OF GHANA. HE SAID U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE FAIR WAS ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF THE DESIRE AND WILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO STRENGTHEN NOT ONLY THE TIES OF TRADE BUT ALSO THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN GHANA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE COMMISSIONER ALSO EXPRESSED THE GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT'S PLEASURE AT THE U.S.' DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1976, WHICH WILL GRANT GHANA'S PRINCIPAL EXPORTS SUCH AS COCOA REDUCED OR ZERO TARIFF ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES. THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE HOPED THIS WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INCENTIVES TO AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO ENTER INTO JOINT VENTURES WITH THEIR GHANAIAN COUNTERPARTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPORT-ORIENTED INDUSTRIES.

8. THE UNITED STATES IS ALREADY INVOLVED IN HELPING TO ATTAIN THESE HOPES. U.S. AMBASSADOR BLACK POINTED OUT IN HER SPEECH AT THE RECEPTION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE LARGEST SINGLE INVESTOR IN GHANA, ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE COUNTRY. "WE HOPE TO CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN OUR INVESTMENTS IN YOUR DEVELOPING COUNTRY," AMBASSADOR BLACK SAID.

9. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR SAID THE THEME FOR THE FAIR, FOOD FOR THE MILLIONS, HAS GREAT RELEVANCE FOR THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE AGRICULTURE IS THE SINGLE LARGEST INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES. WITH A FARM POPULATION OF LESS THAN 10 MILLION PRO-
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PRODUCING ENOUGH TO FEED THE ENTIRE U.S. POPULATION AND LEAVING AN ABUNDANT MARGIN FOR EXPORT, SHE SAID, THE U.S. CAN NOW RIGHTLY BE CALLED, "THE BREADBASKET OF THE WORLD".

10. THE RECEPTION GAVE THE GUESTS A CHANCE TO SAMPLE A BIT OF THE AMERICAN WAY; THEY ATE HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, BEER AND SOFT DRINKS, FOODS THAT ARE TYPICAL OF SUMMER EVENINGS AND SUNDAY PICNICS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE FAIRS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ACCRA00879
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0976
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760290/aaaadaqt.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ETRD, GH
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006